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SLEUTHS ASTRAY

ANARCHISTS and bomb artificers everywhere doubtless will find relief from all worry in the outgivings of the detectives who are supposed to be on their trail.

The sleuths have a clue. They have two clues. The plot thickened, but it thinned again. An arrest will surely be made.

When Department of Justice agents and secret-service men tiptoe in circles and talk in this fashion the wicked and those consecrated to works of devilment take heart, throw away their false whiskers and go zealously about their business in the open. Experience proves that a detective making promises is a detective in the air.

MR. TAFT'S WARNING

A NEW solemnity attaches to Mr. Taft's latest defense of the league of nations. In his address to the Bryn Mawr graduates yesterday the ex-President pleaded for heartfelt sincerity, void of all partisanship, in considering the nature of the pact.

Insistence on such appraisement has today a significance very different from that of three months ago. When a crisis is not immediately at hand responsibility may be dodged with a comparatively light heart. But the illusory period of grace is now virtually ended.

"Upon those who insist that substantial amendments must be made to the treaty will therefore fall," declares Mr. Taft, "the responsibility for the indefinite postponement of peace. Personal and partisan considerations * * * are reasons which should have no influence with us in determining an issue so fateful in the world's history, and so likely to affect the future welfare of the United States and all mankind."

The weight of making a decision of transcendent magnitude rests upon the Senate of the United States. Against this obligation mere captiousness is no weapon at all. The lighter the treatment of the nation's fate the heavier the burden of future responsibility will be. Nothing but absolutely honest estimates of the situation can avail now.

"BOOK SUNDAY"

UNLIKE so many of the charitable enterprises on behalf of the troops abroad, the work of supplying them with good reading became more, rather than less, necessary with the signing of the armistice. Most of the ills to which mankind is subject are emphasized in such fighting as took place in 1918. But boredom is not one of them. It is, however, one of the major afflictions of a home-sick army of occupation and for that reason the observance of "Book Sunday," with which title Governor Sproul will designate June 15, is patriotically imperative.

The American Library Association proposes that on that day every Sunday-school child in the state shall give a book or magazine to be forwarded to the three quarters of a million American soldiers now overseas. The comparative ease with which this request may be executed is in inverse ratio to the refreshment it will impart.

POISE AND "THE JOB"

"SHE seems to have poise," declared William H. Taft of the new acting president of Bryn Mawr College, "and I think she will do a good job."

As an illustration of the principle of cause and effect this observation is admirably convincing. Well-performed tasks are rare in this faulty world and so is poise, but the relationship between the two is indefeasibly intimate. Hysteria and slap-dash judgment may for a time be showily appealing, but their efficacy invariably fizzles out before the "good job" is done.

Mr. Taft's own methods reveal the happy reverse of this practice. By the grace of poise he has argued the case for the league of nations upon its merits. Neither weakened by spleen nor vitiated by rhapsodic generalities has been his championship of the pact of international comity. The virtue of his sane judicial acumen has been incalculable.

It was altogether typical, therefore, that the ex-President should exalt poise in his affectionate, modestly discriminating tribute to his accomplished daughter. And the public, which has come to trust Mr. Taft to a degree reserved for comparatively few statesmen of the day, will be inclined to accept his estimate at face value.

THE LIGHT

DISPATCHES from Berlin under the signature of the Associated Press have the force of novelty. Any one who knows even a little of the elaborately organized business of mystification carried on under the name of propaganda will welcome the reappearance of the dispatches of this association in the press of the country.

Such messages indicate the presence in the German capital of disinterested observers, who are able to view the trend of events without passion or prejudice and without any desire but to report the truth. Many advices received from Germany since the war began had the color of special pleading when they were not obviously unreliable. When the Associated Press and other reliable news agencies or correspondents can penetrate again into Russia the world will be nearer to a decent peace.

News is history as it is being lived in these crowded years. It can have the cleansing effect of truth itself.

Wherever a competent and disinterested journalist goes in Europe nowadays he lets light in. And he lets it out.

CONGRESS RECOGNIZES THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION

Its Approval of the Suffrage Amendment Is an Admission That the World Has Changed In a Century

THE attempt to discover why Congress has approved the equal-suffrage amendment to the constitution is the most fascinating occupation open just now to those who have any attention to spare from considering the progress of the peace negotiations in Paris.

We do not mean why thirty-six Republicans voted for it and seventeen Democrats against it or why eight Republicans voted against it and twenty Democrats for it. The explanation for the party alignment on it in the Senate is easy to find and is of little moment in comparison with the larger issues involved.

The subject which deserves serious consideration at this time is connected with the social changes which have preceded the agitation for equal suffrage and are at bottom responsible for the impending change in the political status of women.

There have been women of undoubted political genius from the time of the semimythical Semiramis to that of Victoria, queen of Great Britain and Ireland and, by grace of the gallant compliment of Beaconsfield, empress of India. And there have been women who, through the fascinations of their sex exerted over kings, have affected the course of events. But these have been exceptions.

The task of government has been performed by men. They have demanded the protection of their lives and their property, including their homes. They have insisted on the passage of laws which would protect their children and their children's children. And when it was necessary they have taken up arms to fight other men unwilling to grant the protection which they demanded.

The women were busy with the tasks of the home. In a less complicated and mechanical civilization they practiced many arts. They spun and wove fabrics. They made them into garments for their families. They gave their children such religious instruction as they received. They imparted to them knowledge of the secrets of life. They trained them in the household arts. **And a social system grew up with the family as the unit and the head of the family as its political representative in the state.**

The only "respectable" occupation open to a woman outside of her own home was that of teaching or nursing in a quiet way, or domestic service. If a woman was so rash as to appear on a public platform to make a speech she risked her reputation. The proper place for a woman was in the home, according to the accepted opinion of the time—it was not more than seventy years ago—and if she left the home she did so at her peril.

But now there are women doctors and women lawyers. The factories are filled with women workers. The large retail shops employ women almost exclusively as salespeople. The offices of business and professional men are filled with women stenographers and women secretaries. We are no longer scandalized when a young woman studies Greek and Latin, chemistry and the higher mathematics. Colleges have been established exclusively for the higher education of women and women are admitted on the same terms as men in many great universities.

The women's colleges at first set out to train women as if they were to enter into the same occupations as men, because they wished to prove that a woman was as good as a man, if not a little better. Wiser counsels are now prevailing and an attempt is making to train women for the purely feminine functions which they must perform if the race is to be preserved. But the right of a woman to as much education as she or her friends or the state is willing and able to pay for is no longer disputed, even by the extreme anti-feminists.

The home of today, however, is not what it was in the days of our grandmothers. Instruction in sewing and cooking is left to the public schools. Religious instruction is left to the Sunday schools or is neglected altogether. Most if not all of the clothing is made outside of the home and the domestic arts of weaving and spinning have been transferred to great factories. Much of the food consumed is prepared in canning factories or in bakeries. The cured meats are bought ready for use. And the washing machine and electric iron and vacuum cleaner have reduced the household work until the modern housewife is a woman of leisure in comparison with her immediate feminine ancestors.

So many women are employed outside of the home that it has become almost impossible to get any one to assist the mother in the care of her family. We are giving our attention almost exclusively to the needs of the workers outside of the homes. Social reformers are demanding legislation for the protection of women and children. They are also demanding better housing conditions, so that the workers may have healthful surroundings where they sleep as well as where they work.

There are a large number of questions to be considered by the legislators which never arose in the old days before great masses of women became wage earners.

The granting of the vote to women is the outcome of the changed social order dating back for two or three generations. It has doubtless been hastened because of the splendid co-operation of the women with the men in all the work of the war save that of carrying a gun. Their patriotism has been proved beyond question. There is no doubt of their interest in the preservation of the liberties of the nation. Their resentment against the barbarous treatment of women and children by the German armies is so acute that their insistence on being permitted to participate in the election of those officers of government whose duty it will be to make the repetition of such barbarities impossible is so strong that it would be difficult to resist their appeals if one were so disposed.

Congress in approving the amendment has merely taken cognizance of a social revolution already accomplished. How much further it will go no man can say. But the whole tendency is toward a more fully individualistic state than any we have yet known, in that the political unit will soon cease to be the family, represented by the husband and father, and will become the individual adult of both sexes, voting his or her individual views, regardless of whether or not the views of the husband and wife agree. This kind of individualism, however, must be distinguished from that individualism which is opposed to the socialistic state. Whether the women voters will favor extension of socialistic doctrines remains to be seen.

ONE NAVY IS ENOUGH

THE inconvenience arising from two branches of sea service under the government was illustrated when the coast guard was absorbed into the Navy Department at the outbreak of the war. Under the law, ships of the coast guard, with their officers and men, must be transferred from the Treasury Department to the Navy Department in time of war.

But the rank of coast guard officers is lower for corresponding duties than the rank of naval officers. Sometimes a coast guard officer assigned to duty on a transport was forced to instruct a naval officer of higher rank who had been assigned to supersede him. The officers and men of the two branches of the sea service have been working together harmoniously under common command ever since we entered the war. The Navy Department and all but 12 per cent of the officers of the coast guard are in favor of uniting the two branches. There are more than 225 officers in the guard capable of serving on the ships of the navy. They are experienced, many of them by years of active service at sea. The navy is short of such officers.

Congress is asked to unite the two branches by passing a law which will definitely take the coast guard from the Treasury Department in time of peace. This union is provided for in a budget bill which takes from the Treasury Department all functions not financial. Another bill is soon to be introduced which will define the conditions under which the officers and men of the coast guard shall enter the Navy Department. It classifies the men and it gives to the officers the rank in the navy to which their experience and qualifications entitle them. And it provides that the Navy Department shall destroy derelicts, rescue vessels at sea, patrol the sea lanes and report the presence of icebergs and other menaces to navigation and do all the other things hitherto left to the coast guard.

In spite of the obvious desirability of the union of the two branches of the sea service, admitted by both services, a congressman has been induced to introduce a joint resolution in the House directing that the coast guard shall be immediately restored to the Treasury Department, irrespective of the date of the signing of the peace treaty. Of course, the passage of such a resolution would not prevent the passage of the budget bill separating from the Treasury Department all functions save those of a financial nature, but it would immediately render liable to court-martial every officer of the coast guard who uttered a word in public in favor of the permanent union of the guard with the Navy Department. It is the kind of a resolution that should be defeated.

One navy is enough, and all the ships which are called upon to protect our commerce in time of war should be united in it in time of peace, that they may be trained in the arts of co-operation.

Cleanliness Kills Germs

The president of the International Building Trades Federation hit the nail on the head when he said that the germ of bolshevism may infect men who work in crowded quarters, but is powerless with men who work in the open air. Fresh, clean air makes fresh, clean minds.

Jaundice

General Wood says returning soldiers are bitter, sore and disgruntled and desire something more than an empty parade welcome. They have a right to something more—jobs, for instance. And they will get them. General Wood, like many reformers, is unduly pessimistic.

Or Plain Ass

Scotland Yard is wrestling with a Russian Bolshevist plot to flood England with counterfeit treasury notes. It is but another instance of the fact that many a Bolshevist who poses as a political economist is simply a plain criminal.

Argument for a Hard Peace

The trial in Switzerland of pro-German agents is demonstrating that Germany still has plenty of money for the purpose of stirring up discord in the world. Some of it should be diverted to the paying of her just debts.

Can't Be Driven

A year ago the doughboys were driving back the Hun. Today our cake is dough because he can't drive back the Sun. We've little cause to make complaint when all is said and done.

There is evidence that the bombs used by anarchists on Monday night were inclosed in wooden boxes. The ideas that gave them birth were inclosed in wooden heads.

THE COST OF COAL

The Disaster at Wilkes-Barre and the Unwritten Drama of Anthracite

THOUGH improvements are constantly being made in all the methods of anthracite mining, disasters such as that which occurred at Wilkes-Barre are almost inevitable. Life for coal-miners is hard and perilous and uncertain, like the life of the sea. Like the sea, its surprises are sudden and terrible. Men in the anthracite fields fought poison gas before ever the German introduced it in France. Until some one with eyes to see and the habit of expression looks back over the last fifty years in Pennsylvania at the arriving and receding tides of Welsh, English, Irish, Poles and Russians who contributed the strength and courage and endurance that the mines demand we shall not know the cost of coal.

Under the older rules of mining, when hours were long, anthracite miners were content to see daylight once a week on Sundays. They descended into the earth before dawn. They returned to the surface only after darkness. The mules used to haul the coal on levels 500 feet below the surface were stabled underground. They were brought to the surface only after an accident or in time of danger, and often were made uncontrollable by fright in the unfamiliar light of day. There are parts of Pennsylvania in which it is possible to travel for twenty miles or more from one series of mine tunnels to another. An explosion in the gangways is unbelievably destructive. Men, mules, cars and mining implements are flung through the narrow tunnels as they would be flung through the barrel of a huge rifle.

Miners almost invariably have the sort of quiet courage that characterizes old seamen. Men rescued in disasters like that at Wilkes-Barre are the first to go to the aid of those "still below"—to descend where there is flame or flood and darkness and the perpetual menace of gas that explodes if it is not suffocating.

AN OLD-WORLD air still hangs over many parts of the Pennsylvania coal country—an old-world frankness, and simplicity characteristic of the people who have arrived in succeeding years from the different parts of Europe to succeed the older miners, who drifted westward under the pressure of competition engineered by mine-owners in the old days, when cheap labor was considered the most important thing in industry.

Mine disasters were most tragic in the smaller settlements that clung and grew about a cluster of mines and collieries. Twenty years ago telephones were not numerous in such regions. Each colliery had a great siren that boomed four times a day, once at 6 in the morning, again at the hour when work began, at noon and at the hour when the work of the day shift ended. It was audible for miles.

When the colliery siren blared at any other time the heart of every woman within hearing distance naturally skipped a beat, because she knew the sound as the signal of a disaster. Her husband and her sons were underground. Doctors packed their kits and hitched their horses and started for the mine. A hush fell over the town. Women with their heads shawl-bound, with little children clutched to their shoulders and others clinging to their skirts, appeared running and stumbling through the long miles of dust. They converged in the little streets and streamed to the mine, while the ambulances raced past them in clouds of dust. The look of desolation is about all coal mines. Everything is black and gray.

No one who ever has been present at an anthracite mine after a serious accident underground can forget the unchanging scene which the newspaper dispatches refer to when they say, as the dispatches from Wilkes-Barre said, that women were the first at the colliery to look for their husbands and sons.

Women are always the first at a mine after a disaster. And they sit and rock themselves and hold their children and watch the slow cables overhead that bring up the living and the dead. Now and then they fight bitterly to make a way past the guards to the black opening, like the top of an elevator shaft, where the car descends or appears. They kneel in the black dust and tell their beads or open wild arms to some blackened wraith who staggers from the mine opening at last.

THEY are not merely Poles or Huns or Russians. They are the people of Thomas Hardy or Maxim Gorky or Zola, the men and women who have to fight it out forever with the elemental earth. There is nothing in the whole narrative of American growth and development more profoundly touching than this drama that has been acted over and over again in the anthracite fields and acted oftener in the old days before mining was as scientifically managed as it is now. Mines catch fire or they "cave in"; they are flooded; great masses of earth and coal drop into the gangways and imprison companies of miners. There is still the dreaded "black damp"—a heavy gas that used to creep through the gangways, driven by a "fall" in another part of the operation and smother the men when they knew less about it than they do now. And there are highly explosive gases that have to be contended with. Electricity has done much to eliminate the perils of mining. A more rigorous supervision by foremen and mine managers has tended to lessen accidents. But the occupation of mining is still one of the most dangerous in the world.

GREATER care, greater precautions, better methods of production and new inventions will continue to lessen casualties in the coal industry. But, by the very nature of things, so long as anthracite is used there must always be times when women must sit with wrung faces at the mine entrances to watch the bodies brought up in rolls of blackened canvas. There will be nights and days when others like them will wait at the mines while, 500 feet down in the earth, engineering miracles are attempted and performed and hordes of men work cheerfully until they fail to bring their husbands or sons back to them alive.

Mining is made as safe as human ingenuity can make it. But it is like the life of the sea. Mine corporations have spent fortunes in a few days and engineers have almost moved mountains to save a few men imprisoned underground. Electricity was an innovation that removed some of the familiar perils of the work. The Wilkes-Barre disaster proves that new dangers will continue to replace old ones and that it will never be possible to figure the cost of coal in money alone.

Every bomb explosion is preceded by a brain explosion.

Paris is for the moment more directly interested in its prospective industrial peace treaty.

These are piping times of peace, but news from the various fronts seems to indicate that the pipes need fixing.

Apropos of the lively little mill in the United States Senate, it may be said that Woman's right landed with awful effect, while poor old States' rights never got in a lick.

"WALL STREET, EH? MAKES A FELLER THINK OF 'BULL,' RIGHT AWAY!"

THE CHAFFING DISH

NOTHING is so infuriating to the man who has just spent a night at the seashore, during a hot spell, as to come back to town telling every one "I slept under three blankets last night," and to hear them say, "Yes, it was very much cooler in town also."

It causes some people almost as much anguish to spend their money as it does to earn it.

Hasn't the blithe ejaculation, "Oh, boy!" almost outlived its usefulness? It seems to have tarried with us a long, long time. Four years, we were going to say; but out polyerudite friend the Quizeditor suggests seven or eight. In that case we suggest that it be not re-elected to a third term.

"I should worry" has happily faded into ignominious desuetude, after flourishing from about 1912 to 1916. "Twenty-three" was interred, without mourners, about the time Woodrow was elected governor of New Jersey. Two tags of speech that have been struggling for recognition are "I'll say so" and "At that." "Some" is on its last rounds, and "jazz" in its various applications is on the chute. Just now we are all "hopping off" and "dropping our undercarriage," but these are only temporary. The nation waits spellbound for a new catchword. The crisis of July will probably bring one to birth.

We Are Sententious Today

We offer the following apothegm for the use of our frisky contemporary, the Retail Public Ledger:

Goods that just get by don't get bought.

Tomorrow being Mr. Burleson's birthday, perhaps it would be well to wish him many happy deliveries.

Our guess is that the dynamiter who so successfully distributed himself over the Washington landscape had been lured into a false sense of security by the use of Swedish safety matches.

We Are More Candid Than the Candy Makers

Like all human institutions, the Chaffing Dish is imperfect. Of course, we endeavor to please our discriminating clients; but, honestly, we take no particular pains to make our assortments immortal. If you find any irregularities in this package, you may return the inclosed slip, and we shall pay no attention to it.

This Dish packed personally by ANN DANTE.

Our glance happening, by extreme hazard, to glitter upon a corset ad, we learn that they are now made "topless and with elastic all round the top."

Another Military Wedding

Another item that our orbs have just blazed upon in our favorite evening sheet, the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER, deals with a lady who "made an assent in a balloon over the fighting lines."

In the June Century there is a story in which frequent reference is made to a head that had been decapitated, and the author even goes so far as to remark that this is something that frequently happens to heads.

Begging his pardon, it is bodies that are decapitated. Even the most rigorous treatment could not do more to a head than detruncate it.

It is the more delightful to entertain these thoughts, as an eminent thinker has said, since they give us an opportunity to say that Joe Hergesheimer's tale, "The Meeker Ritual," in the June Century, is one of the ablest yarns we ever read in a smoking car going down to the seashore. It is told with a delicious sense of irony that Joseph Conrad himself would applaud. And there is at least one word in it that will probably send you, as it did us, to the dictionary. Mucid. We are going to try it on the Little Brother of the Quiz. This latter, by the way, has given up quizzing in rhyme. The hot spell did for him.

We expect to make a vast fortune by engraving and selling some cards for the 1st of July, with the message:

WISHING YOU A MERRY ABSTINENCE AND A HAPPY NEW FISCAL YEAR

Triumph!

The American Press Humorists, when they convene here on June 23, will be the first to congratulate us on so promising an addition to the cradle roll. This is a true copy of what we have just received:

SPECIAL NIGHT MESSAGE

Permit me to assume full authority for saying the Rev. Dr. Mutchler will gladly accept honorary membership in the American Press Humorists' Association, provided, however, the other members of said Association are clowns equally as humorous as the Editors of the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER.

WILLIAM B. FORNEY,
Pastor Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Manayunk.

We congratulate so many cows, each one apparently holding the world's record.

Telegram Just Received

CONSIDERABLY PERTURBED BY REPORTS OF PRIZE CATTLE SHOW IN YOUR CITY TRUST THIS WILL NOT TAKE EDGE OFF RECEPTION TO BE GIVEN AMERICAN PRESS HUMORISTS AT THEIR COMING CONVENTION WE ARE CONSIGNING TO THIS CONVENTION AS SPECIAL EXHIBIT DOVE DUCET WHO HOLDS WORLD'S RECORD OF POEM PRODUCTION HIS VERSE TAKES FORM OF SMALL EVEN GLOBULES EASILY DIGESTED AND YIELDS SIXTY PER CENT SACCHARIN BEST POSSIBLE SUBSTITUTE FOR THE REAL THING.

AMERICAN PRESS HUMORISTS.

John Milton on Safety Matches

Alas! What boots it with uncessant care
To tidaholm the lightless safety match,
And strictly chafe the thankless brimstone strip?
Were it not better done, as others use,
To light our weed at some cigar-store jet,
Or by the sunshine through a burning glass?
For the fair tandstick when we hope to find
And think to burst out into sudden blaze
Comes the mere sizzle of a hopeless dud,
And label "Made in Sweden."
And when they strike, their jean and flashy sticks
Will never kindle pipe, poor wretched straw.

We Aphorize

Many a promising young man has later proved to be a breach of promise.

The Urchin is an unpredictable infant. We took him down to the seashore the other day and went through enormous contortions in a hot and crowded car to find a seat in which we could sit together. And then he insisted on sitting all the way on the little sort of footstool near the floor of the car, the exact purpose of which we don't know, not being the director general of railroads. We believe, however, it has something to do with the heating system in the cars. If the Urchin goes traveling next winter he will reach his destination fried to a turn.

For a month we had been drilling the Urchin that he was going to the seashore to see the ocean, a sight which (we fondly thought) would arouse shouts of delight. To our dismay he took the "bigoshun" (as he calls it) quite soberly, and would not even look at it while we were watching him, all eager to make a note of his impressions. Sometimes we have a suspicion that the Urchin is wise to the fact we are using him for copy. He seized a shell and began to dig in the sand as though his life depended upon it, serenely, gravely, and as though he had at last learned the full and precious meaning of life. He kept his back turned upon the surf. But we spotted him examining it when he thought we weren't looking. Wise Urchin! He doesn't intend to have his innocent emotions set in a notebook, learned and conned by rote.

On our way back from the bigoshun we passed, unexpectedly, through the genial town of Manumuskin, the name of which has long fascinated us on the map. Has any one ever celebrated it in rhyme?

Manumuskin, Manumuskin,
Not a town to be too brusque in,
Well-bred hamlet, Manumuskin—
(Hamlet—that suggests the huskin)
Where the Women's Club reads Ruskin.
When the twilight comes, it's dusk in
That old town of Manumuskin,
Hungry Jerseymen put tusk in
Evening meal of Manumuskin:
When the corn is ripe for huskin
Flappers flirt in Manumuskin—
Every human joy makes us kin
With the town of Manumuskin!

SOCRATES.

Recognition of the rights of minorities by the league of nations may prove a burr under the wing of the dove of peace.

The anarchist idea that industrial freedom lies in a bomb has long been exploded; but with anarchists explosions are commonplaces.

There will be a strict observance of the law in all mines following the Wilkes-Barre disaster—until familiarity with danger again breeds contempt.

What Do You Know?

QUIZ

1. What English king died in the chateau at St. Germain-en-Laye?
2. What is the minimum number of states capable of defeating the suffrage amendment to the constitution?
3. What is the meaning of the word nihilist?
4. Who was Baron von Steuben?
5. What is a bream?
6. Who wrote "The Dunciad"?
7. After what geographical features are most of the French departments named?
8. What is the meaning of the nautical word abaft?
9. Who commanded the American troops at the overwhelming victory of New Orleans, in 1815?
10. Who wrote the words of "Hail Columbia"?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

1. Edward Albert is the present Prince of Wales.
2. The accent in the word inhospitable shall fall on the second syllable.
3. The Vicomte de Beauharnais was the first husband of Josephine, who became Empress of France in 1804.
4. Vienna is on the Danube river.
5. The feminine form of the word executor is executrix.
6. Arcturus is the brightest star (as distinguished from planets) in the northern heavens.
7. A bear is called Bruin after the name of the animal in the medieval satirical epic poem "Reynard the Fox."
8. George Borrow wrote "The Bible in Spain."
9. The continent of America extends farther south than any other.
10. John H. Towers was commander of the American transatlantic seaplane fleet.